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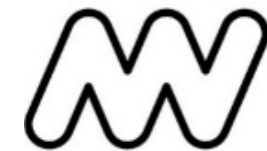


Nicole Kearney, Manager BHL Australia

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2883-0906>

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1838



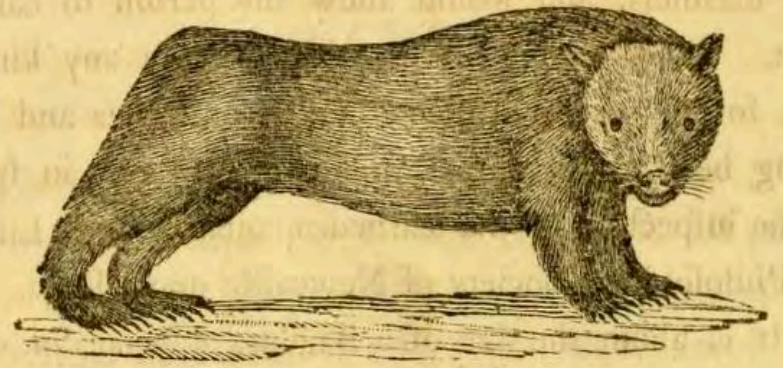
*Echidna Australis* *Echidna Australis* *Leis.*

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1811



1800



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1808



*Dilophis cynocephala*

1790



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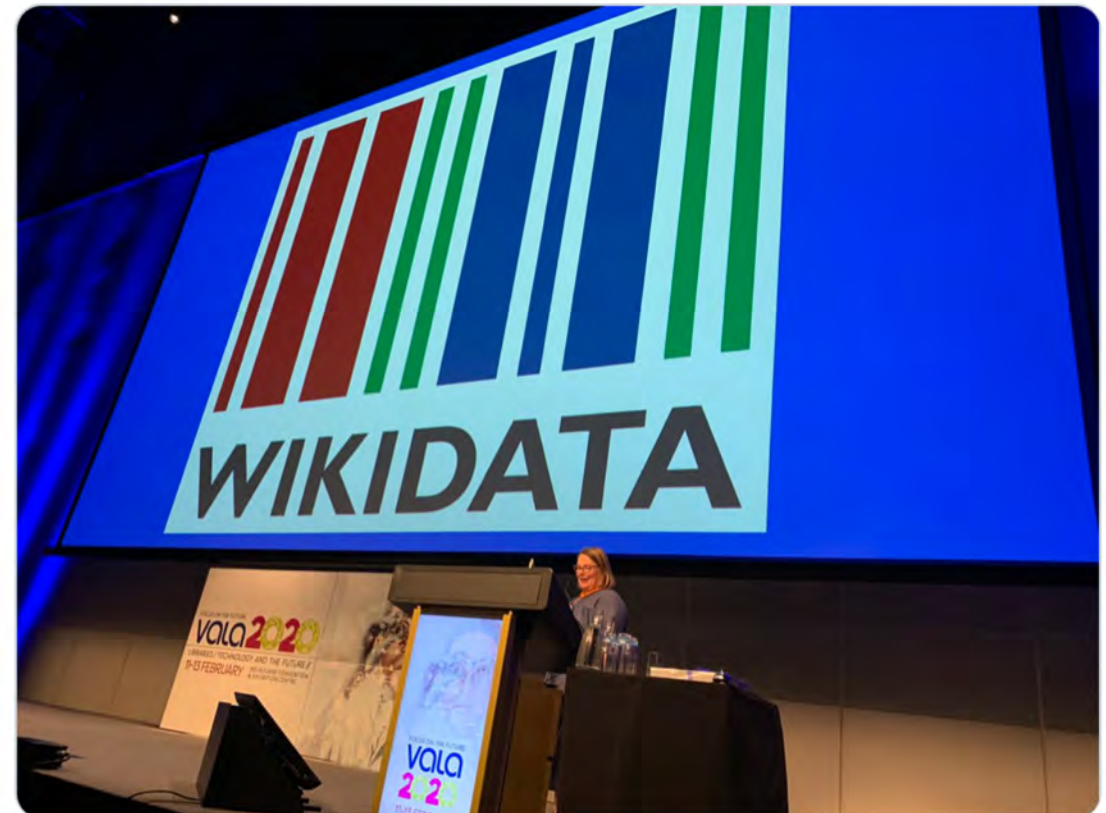


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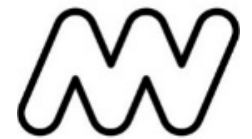
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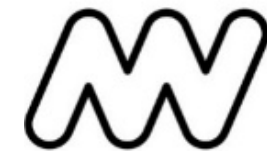


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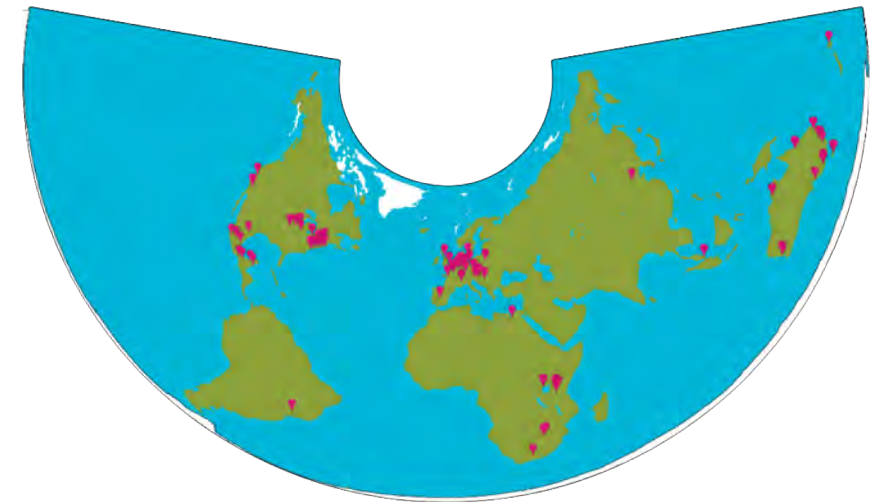
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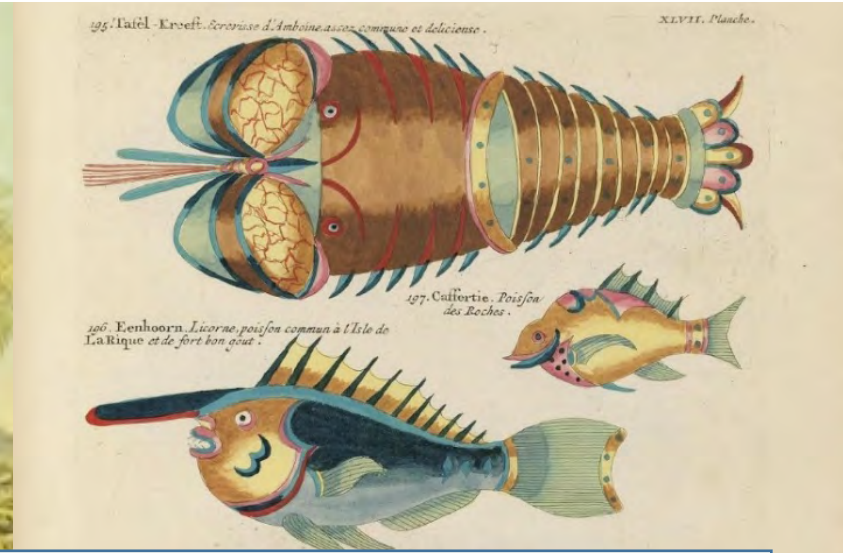
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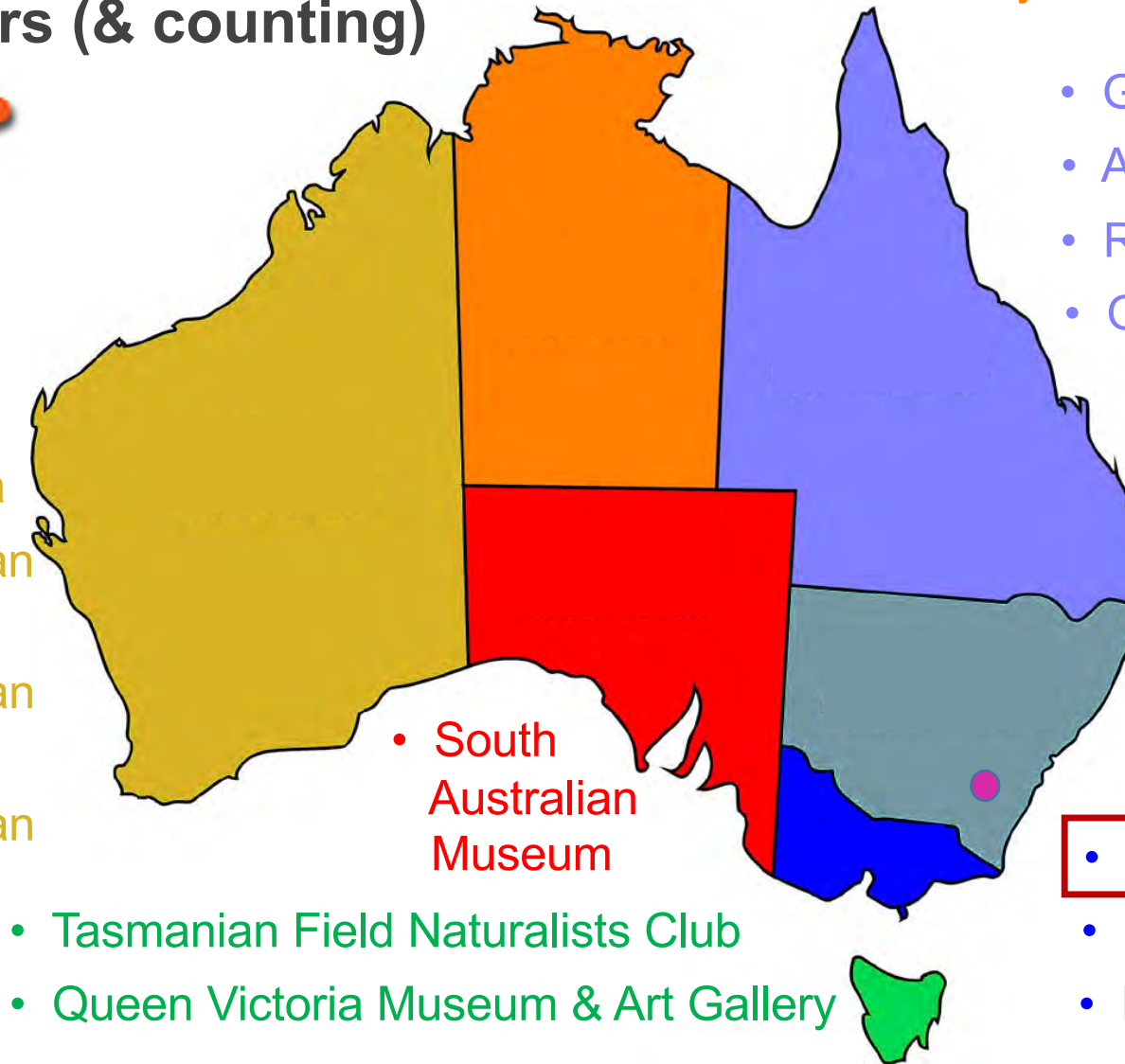
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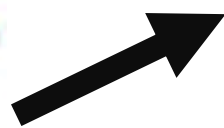
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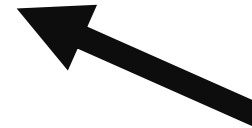
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It is commonly known as the **Tasmanian tiger** because of its striped lower back, or the **Tasmanian wolf** because of its canid-like characteristics. It was native to Tasmania, New Guinea, and the Australian mainland.

**Species:** †*T. cynocephalus*    **Order:** [Dasyuromorphia](#)

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Thylacine



Animal

The thylacine, now extinct, is one of the largest known carnivorous marsupials, evolving about 4 million years ago. The last known live animal was captured in 1933 in Tasmania. [Wikipedia](#)

**Extinction status:** [Extinct](#) Encyclopedia of Life

**Scientific name:** *Thylacinus cynocephalus*

**Mass:** 30 kg (Large Adult) Encyclopedia of Life

**Family:** †Thylacinidae

**Class:** Mammalia

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# Thylacine

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*"Tasmanian tiger" redirects here. For the cricket team, see [Tasmanian Tigers](#).*

The **thylacine** (/ˈθaɪləsiːn/ *THY-lə-seen*,<sup>[13]</sup> or /ˈθaɪləsaɪn/ *THY-lə-syne*,<sup>[14]</sup> also /ˈθaɪləsiːn/,<sup>[15]</sup> from Ancient Greek θύλακος *thúlakos*, "pouch, sack" + Latin -inus "-ine") (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*), now **extinct**, is one of the largest known **carnivorous marsupials**, evolving about 4 million years ago.<sup>[A]</sup> The last known live animal was captured in 1933 in [Tasmania](#). It is commonly known as the **Tasmanian tiger** because of its striped lower back, or the **Tasmania wolf** because of its **canid-like** characteristics.<sup>[16]</sup> It was native to Tasmania, [New Guinea](#), and the [Australian mainland](#).

The thylacine was relatively shy and nocturnal, with the general appearance of a medium-to-large-size dog, except for its stiff tail and **abdominal pouch** similar to a kangaroo, and dark transverse stripes that radiated from the top of its back, reminiscent of a tiger. The thylacine was a formidable **apex predator**,<sup>[5]</sup> though exactly how large its prey animals were is disputed. Because of **convergent evolution** it displayed a number of **adaptations** similar to the **tiger** and **wolf** of the Northern Hemisphere, even though its closest living relative is either the [Tasmanian devil](#) or the [numbat](#). The thylacine was one of only two marsupials to have a pouch in both sexes: the other is the [water opossum](#). The pouch of the male thylacine served as a protective sheath covering the **external reproductive organs**.

The thylacine had become extinct on the Australian mainland before [British settlement](#) of the continent, but it survived on the island of Tasmania along with several other **endemic** species, including the [Tasmanian devil](#). Intensive hunting encouraged by **bounties** is generally blamed for its extinction, but other contributing factors may have been disease, the introduction of dogs, and human encroachment into its habitat.

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  - [1.1 Evolution](#)
- [Description](#)

## Thylacine<sup>[1]</sup>

**Temporal range:** **Pleistocene – Holocene**,  
**2–0.0001 Ma**



Thylacines in a [Washington, D.C. zoo](#) (c. 1906)

## Conservation status



**Extinct** (1936) (IUCN 3.1)<sup>[3]</sup>

## Scientific classification

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# Thylacinus cynocephalus (Harris, 1808)

species Accepted Name authority: AFD

## Thylacine

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### Thylacine

An extinct species of carnivorous marsupial from Australia "Tasmanian tiger" redirects here. For the cricket team, see [Tasmanian Tigers](#).

The **thylacine** (/ˈtʰɪləˈsiːn/ THY-l?-seen,<sup>[1]</sup> or /ˈtʰɪləˈsɑːn/ THY-l?-syne,<sup>[12]</sup> also /ˈtʰɪləˈsn/<sup>[13]</sup> *Thylacinus cynocephalus*) was the largest known **carnivorous marsupial** of **modern times**. It is commonly known as the **Tasmanian tiger** (because of its striped lower back) or the **Tasmanian wolf** (because of its **canid-like** appearance, traits and attributes).<sup>[14]</sup> Native to continental **Australia**, **Tasmania**, and **New Guinea**, it is believed to have become **extinct** in the 20th century. It was the last extant member of its family, **Thylacinidae**; specimens of other members of the family have been found in the fossil record dating back to the late **Oligocene**.

Surviving evidence suggests that it was a relatively shy, nocturnal creature with the general appearance of a medium-to-large-size dog, except for its stiff tail and **abdominal pouch** (reminiscent of kangaroo) and dark transverse stripes that radiated from the top of its back, similar to those of a tiger. The thylacine was an **apex predator**, like the tigers and **wolves** of the Northern Hemisphere from which it obtained two of its common names. As a marsupial, it was not closely related to these **placental** mammals, but because of **convergent evolution** it displayed the same general form and **adaptations**. Its closest living relative is thought to be either the **Tasmanian devil** or the

### Conservation Status



### Thylacine: Brief Summary

An extinct species of carnivorous marsupial from Australia "Tasmanian tiger" redirects here. For the cricket team, see [Tasmanian Tigers](#).

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The thylacine had become extremely rare or extinct on the **Australian mainland** before **British settlement** of the continent, but it survived on the island of **Tasmania** along with several other **endemic** species, including the **Tasmanian devil**. Intensive hunting encouraged by **bounties** is generally blamed for its extinction, but other contributing factors may have been disease, the introduction of dogs, and human encroachment into its habitat. Despite its official classification as extinct, sightings are still reported, though none have been conclusively proven.

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# Thylacine

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<sup>[2]</sup>



Thylacines in a [Washington, D.C. zoo](#) (c. 1906)

**Conservation status**

Extinct

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NT

LC


Extinct (1936) (IUCN 3.1)<sup>[3]</sup>

**Scientific classification** 

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# Thylacine

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Thylacines in a [Washington, D.C. zoo](#) (c. 1906)

**Conservation status**



Extinct (1936) (IUCN 3.1)<sup>[3]</sup>

**Scientific classification** 



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1808

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- <sup>^</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> <sup>c</sup> Groves, C.P. (2005). [Wilson, D.E.](#); Reeder, D.M. (eds.). *Mammal Species of the World: A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference* (3rd ed.). Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. p. 23. ISBN 0-801-88221-4. OCLC 62265494.
- <sup>^</sup> "Early Pleistocene mammals from the Nelson Bay local fauna, Portland, Victoria, Australia". *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*. **27** (2). 2007. doi:10.1671/0272-4634(2007)27[492:EPMFTN]2.0.CO;2.
- <sup>^</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> <sup>c</sup> Burbidge, A. A.; Woinarski, J. (2016). "Thylacinus cynocephalus". *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. 2016: e.T21866A21949291. Archived from the original on 21 March 2019. Retrieved 7 September 2016.
- <sup>^</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> Harris, G. P. (1808). "Description of two new Species of Didelphis from Van Diemen's Land". *Transactions of the Linnean Society of London*. **9** (1): 174–178. doi:10.1111/j.1096-3642.1818.tb00336.x. Archived from the original on 2 August 2017. Retrieved 21 February 2018.
- <sup>^</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> Paddle (2000)
- <sup>^</sup> Geoffroy-Saint-Hilaire, [Étienne] (1810). "Description de deux espèces de Dasyures (*Dasyurus cynocephalus* et *Dasyurus ursinus*)". *Annales du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle*. **15**: 301–306. Archived from the original on 2 August 2017. Retrieved 21 February 2018.
- <sup>^</sup> Temminck, C. J. (1827). "Thylacine de Harris. – *Thylacinus harrisi*". *Monographies de mammalogie*. 1. Paris: G. Dufour et Ed. d'Ocagne. pp. 63–65.
- <sup>^</sup> Grant, J. (1831). "Notice of the Van Diemen's Land Tiger". *Gleanings in Science*. **3** (30): 175–177. Archived from the original on 2 August 2017. Retrieved 21 February 2018.

- <sup>^</sup> Warlow, W. (1833). "Systematically arranged Catalogue of the Mammalia and Birds belonging to the Museum of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta". *The Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*. **2** (14): 97. Archived from the original on 2 August 2017. Retrieved 21 February 2018.
- <sup>^</sup> "Genus *Thylacinus*, Temm.". *Descriptive Catalogue of the Specimens of Natural History in Spirit Contained in the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Vertebrata: Pisces, Reptilia, Aves, Mammalia*. London: Taylor and Francis. 1859. p. 147.
- <sup>^</sup> Krefft, Gerard (1868). "Description of a new species of Thylacine (*Thylacinus breviceps*)". *The Annals and Magazine of Natural History*. Fourth Series. **2** (10): 296–297. doi:10.1080/00222936808695804. Archived from the original on 2 August 2017. Retrieved 21 February 2018.
- <sup>^</sup> De Vis, C.W. (1894). "A thylacine of the earlier nototherian period in Queensland". *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales*. **8**: 443–447. Archived from the original on 8 August 2019. Retrieved 8 August 2019.
- <sup>^</sup> *Macquarie ABC Dictionary*. The Macquarie Library Pty Ltd. 2003. p. 1032. ISBN 978-1-876429-37-9.
- <sup>^</sup> "thylacine". *Oxford English Dictionary* (3rd ed.). Oxford University Press. September 2005. (Subscription or UK public library membership required.)
- <sup>^</sup> "thylacine". *Dictionary.com Unabridged* (v 1.1). Random House, Inc. 30 May 2009.
- <sup>^</sup> Salleh, Anna (15 December 2004). "Rock art shows attempts to save thylacine". ABC Science Online. Archived from the original on 16 April 2015. Retrieved 21 November 2006.



Tasmanian devil and thylacine, both labelled as members of *Didelphis*, from Harris' 1808 description. This is the earliest known non-indigenous illustration of a thylacine.



4. <sup>^ a b</sup> Harris, G. P. (1808). "[Description of two new Species of Didelphis from Van Diemen's Land](#)". *Transactions of the Linnean Society of London*. **9** (1): 174–178.

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